

APPENDIX A ACRONYMS

The use of acronyms is a common practice in today's world. Government units are not alone. Every business, society, and profession have their own set of acronyms they use. Acronyms used in District activities are often confusing to those unfamiliar with it. Following is a list of common acronyms you may see in everyday District business.

AES - Agriculture Experiment Station. Part of Michigan State University.

AOA - Annual Operating Agreement. Document that describes the work and operational agreement between an individual conservation District and its corresponding NRCS field office.

ASTC - Assistant State Conservationist.

AFO - Animal Feeding Operations. Agricultural enterprises where animals are kept and raised in confinement.

CAFO - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. Those animal feeding operations with 1,000 or more animal feeding units.

CCA - Certified Crop Advisor.

CD - Conservation District.

CES (now MSUE) - Cooperative Extension Service. Term formerly used to describe Michigan State University Extension.

CET - Civil Engineering Technicians.

CMI - Clean Michigan Initiative. Bond initiative passed to fund various environmental programs in the State of Michigan.

CNMP - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan.

CREP - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

CRP - Conservation Reserve Program.

CSP - USDA Conservation Security Program.

CWA - Cooperative Working Agreement. Document that defines the working relationship between USDA NRCS, the Michigan Conservation Districts and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

DC - District Conservationist. (USDA NRCS) person who has overall supervision of a NRCS service unit.

DEQ or MDEQ - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

DNR or MDNR - Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

ESD - Environmental Stewardship Division. Part of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) that has administrative oversight of Conservation District activities.

EBI - Environmental Benefits Index. Criteria used to determine enrollment of land in CRP.

EI - Erosion Index.

EPA or USEPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Federal program that provides funds on a competitive basis for cost-share. This was part of the 1996 Farm Bill.

FAP – Forestry Assistance Program.

FAS - Farm*A*Syst. A risk assessment tool for farms.

FCA - Farm Credit Agency.

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Act. Federal agency that provides disaster relief.

FIP - Forestry Incentives Program. Federal program providing assistance for forestry.

FLEP - Forest Land Enhancement Program.

FOCS - Field Office Computing System. NRCS database used for documenting conservation planning efforts.

FOIA - Freedom of Information Act.

FOTG - Field Office Technical Guide.

FSA - USDA Farm Services Agency.

GAAMP - Generally Acceptable Agricultural and Management Practices.

GAC - Groundwater Advisory Council.

GIS - Geographic Information Systems.

GPS - Global Positioning System.

HEL - Highly Erodible Land.

ICM - Integrated Crop Management.

IPM - Integrated Pest Management.

LAN/WAN - Local Area Network/Wide Area Network. Information transfer and management systems involving phones, internet, etc., used in USDA Service Centers.

MABA - Michigan Agri-Business Association.

MACD - Michigan Association of Conservation Districts. A non-profit organization that supports the work of Districts throughout the state.

MACDE - Michigan Association of Conservation District Employees.

MAEAP - Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program.

MARI - Manure Application Risk Index.

MDA - Michigan Department of Agriculture.

MDEQ or DEQ - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

MDNR or DNR - Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

MDOT - Michigan Department of Transportation.

MGSP - Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program. A state program providing technical assistance and cost-share to farmers and landowners to identify and decrease risk to groundwater from pesticide and nitrogen fertilizer contamination. Administered through MDA.

MMSP - Manure Management Systems Plan.

MOU - Memorandum of Understanding. Agreements between agencies on how they will support each others activities.

MSUE - Michigan State University Extension.

MUCC - Michigan United Conservation Club.

NACD - National Association of Conservation Districts. A non-profit organization that supports the work of districts nationwide.

NASCA - National Association of State Conservation Agencies. State agencies that have administrative oversight of their respective state conservation Districts. MDA is the state conservation agency in Michigan.

NPDES - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (Permit).

NRCS - USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

OMB - U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Federal agency that has regulatory authority on budget and management and budget issues.

PDR - Purchase of Development Rights.

PL-566 - Federal NRCS program that focuses on small watersheds and projects that provide flood control.

PLTAG - Private Lands Technical Assistance Grants.

PRMS - Performance and Results Measurement System. Internet based reporting system developed by USDA NRCS.

PSNT – Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Testing.

RC - Resource Conservationist. (USDA NRCS) person assigned to the District office. The person who is responsible for NRCS programs in the local NRCS field office

RC&D - Resource Conservation and Development. Non-profit organizations staffed by NRCS employees. RC&Ds help communities improve their economies and quality of life through wise use and development of natural resources.

RTF - Right To Farm.

RUSLE - Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation. A formula used to determine the amount of erosion from a given field under varying circumstances. Replaces USLE or the Universal Soil Loss Equation.

SCT - Soil Conservation Technician.

SIP - Stewardship Incentives Program. Federal program providing assistance for forestry programs.

TMDL - Total Maximum Daily Load.

319 - Federal EPA program that provides funds for water quality programs. This program is administered by MDEQ.

TSP - Technical Service Provider.

USDA - United States Department of Agriculture.

USDOI - United States Department of the Interior.

USF&WS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Within the United States Department of the Interior (DOI).

USFS - United States Forest Service.

USGS - United States Geological Survey.

WHIP - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

WRP - Wetlands Reserve Program. Federal program to improve wetlands.